



**EUROREGIONE ADRIATICA
JADRANSKA EUROREGIJA
ADRIATIC EUROREGION
EURO RAJONI ADRIATIK**

2012 - ACTIVITIES

Dubrovnik, January 23 - Executive Committee

During the meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Dubrovnik on 23rd January 2012, regarding the Adriatic and Ionian Macro-Regional Strategy, it has been widely debated the Decision of the European Council of June 24th 2011. The European Council, after approving the Danube macro-region strategy (the second approved in Europe after the EU Strategy for Baltic Sea), invited EU Member States to continue their collaboration to identify possible new macro-regions, with particular reference to the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region. It will be the European Council, with one accord, to give a mandate to the European Commission to take up the actions, and approve a so-called “action plan” to actually carry out a macro-regional territory. During the meeting, the enlargement of the Adriatic Euroregion to the Ionian Sea Countries has also been discussed. The President, Mr. Michele Iorio, committed himself to formalize this territorial extension in the next and upcoming meetings.

Trieste, June 13 – VII General Assembly

The 1st General Assembly called by the Iorio Presidency, held in Trieste on 13th June 2012, was opened with a thought of solidarity for the Emilia Romagna Region for the earthquake that occurred a few weeks before the meeting. During this Assembly, the participating members had the opportunity to discuss important issues, in particular: the updates on the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Regional Strategy, the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme and the organizational and statutory issues. With regard to these two previous aspects, it has been deemed necessary from the President Iorio to provide Adriatic Euroregion of a Secretariat, committing Molise Region internal resources, in order to achieve, at best, the statutory objectives. It has been confirmed the demand of the membership which has to be paid by members, as established by the art. 28 of the Statute.

During the session the membership application of the Municipality of Ulcinj (Montenegro) was approved.

In addition to the broad debate on the issue of Macro-Region, due to the presence of Mr. Mario Ialenti - President of the National IPA Committee, the IPA Adriatic Cross-border Cooperation Programme CBC has been introduced. Many important points have been highlighted, both the critical points, caused by the delay in spending and in the projects

approval process, and the strengths which consist into developing project ideas on the theme of great interest of macro-regions.

Termoli, July 24 – Meeting with “Adriatic fora”

On 24th July 2012 in Termoli, at the Council Hall, an important meeting, focused on the processing of the Adriatic and Ionian Strategy has been held, with the participation of the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, General Secretaries and representatives of the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns, of the UniAdriatic Network of Universities, of the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce and of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative.

During the meeting, a lot has been said about Adriatic and Ionian Macro-Region, about the fact that it is the 3rd European Macro-Region and about the necessity of an official recognition, in the next months by the European Commission. It was appropriate, and necessary, a comparison among the different *fora* of this big Macro-Region catchment area, on the decision making procedure from the Decision of the European Council to the elaboration of the action plan. It is necessary to provide the European Commission with a precise orientation about this issue. Objective evidence of this cooperation has to be provided, and for doing this, availability and suggestions must be collected quickly, working with a bottom up approach and giving a concrete example of mutual capacity and availability. The most important issues must be identified, and it is necessary to move towards a more well-structured debate, starting with a decision that will be taken in a shared way.

Vice-President of the Adriatic Euroregion, Dr. Nikola Dobrosravić established important and ambitious goals set out by President Iorio during the debate which have to be enriched by the contributions of the other participants. Therefore, the need to create a strong synergy among all the representatives of *fora* has been widely shared.

Bruxelles, October 10 – Open Days – Round Table

"Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Region for an idea of development and competitiveness which affects about 25 million people"

A further and important event, a key step on the undertaken experience, it was undoubtedly the participation at the Open Days in Brussels.

The President of the Adriatic Euroregion, Senator Michele Iorio, spoke highlighting the work already done over the years by the Euroregion, aimed at creating inspiration, debate and willingness between the different levels of government to come to a common understanding of the Adriatic - Ionian basin for a sustainable development, consistent with the socio-economic realities of all the involved territories.

The last 10th October was defined by the press as "The Day of the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Region at the Open Days in Brussels." The President of the Abruzzo Region, Mr. Gianni Chiodi, has realized several thematic meetings in the area of the “Monte dei Paschi” in Brussels, with the presence of prominent representatives of the European institutions and diplomatic corps.

It has been long debated about the Macro - Region. It was a unique opportunity not only for the visibility in a European scenario, so qualified as the Open Days is, but also for the prestige that covers the Adriatic Euroregion in representing the needs along with the several requests of the public bodies in the Adriatic area who want to collaborate in the creation of the Macro- Region.

Biennale Habitat 2012

The Adriatic Euroregion has sponsored the “*Biennale Habitat*”, an international initiative that promotes the protection and enhancement of Adriatic and Ionian territories. This initiative supports the protection and enhancement of territories by exploring the various aspects and issues of those, considering the different specificities, problems and potentials.

The project of the “*Biennale*” is to set up an "interactive and dynamic laboratory of progressive thought and research" for the development of activities and dissemination of projects aimed at the protection, improvement and sustainable development of the areas of the Adriatic coasts – meaning an interacting set of "habitat" that works interacting with the social, cultural, scientific and economic dimensions that characterize the different cognitive levels - from local to global in a research of synthesis, that can be called "glocalization dynamic" system.

Until now, two events in the calendar has been held. The first, on 22nd September 2012, at the Chamber of Commerce of Taranto. The following event took place on 23rd October 2012 at the Auditorium of the Hotel Meridiano in Termoli (Molise Region).

The expected result will be a Network Adriatic - Ionian of the excellence and the best practices of the involved territories which will be an interactive information system, dynamic and always updated about the projects and other information.

“AdriGov”

The Project “*AdriGov*”, submitted on the 2nd Call of IPA Adriatic CBC Programme , has been granted. Outcome of an excellent technical collaboration among the members of the Euroregion, it is a well-structured project, essentially aimed at supporting the activities of the Adriatic Euroregion. It will provide the financial resources to finance the promotion of the association and the organization of events and meetings.

Within the project activities that will allow the functioning and maintenance of the financial committees are planned. It will be possible to combine the committees at least twice a year, in order to implement the exchange of the officers who can really promote the in-depth analysis of topics of interest for the macro area. Furthermore, some activities will be dedicated to a feasibility study of the EGTC. It requires an intense work in order to delineate the statutes and regulations. Therefore, the several meetings that there will be among Members of the Adriatic Euroregion, will be essential. This will help to identify further mechanisms of internal cooperation in order to identify projects which can detect the needs of each member of the Euroregion, as part of the Adriatic and Ionian Strategy.

Upcoming Events

A General Assembly will be convened in the coming days, which will take place in early 2013 in Termoli. It will be organized in parallel with the kick off meeting of the project *AdriGov* and the establishment of the thematic committees of the Adriatic Euroregion.